



INFLUENZA WATCH

Week 40
Ending 10/9/2021

Overview

Influenza activity in San Diego County has been higher so far this season compared to the 2020-21 season, when activity was lower due to COVID-19 preventive measures. Seasonal influenza vaccinations are currently available and encouraged. More than 410,000 influenza vaccinations have been recorded in the San Diego Immunization Registry this season to date.

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Key Points

Current Week 40 (ending 10/9/2021)

- 28 new influenza detections reported
- No influenza-related deaths reported
- 3% influenza-like illness (ILI) among emergency department visits
- 15% of death certificates registered with pneumonia and/or influenza

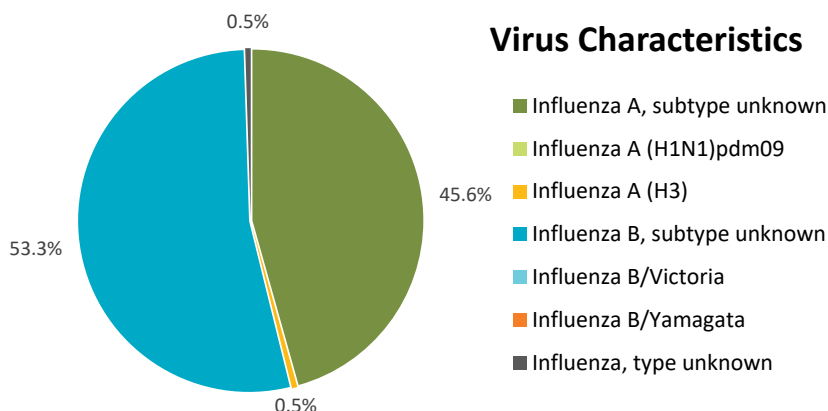
2021-22 FYTD Season Summary

195

Total Cases

0Deaths[†]**0**

Outbreaks*



Virus Characteristics

- Influenza A, subtype unknown
- Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09
- Influenza A (H3)
- Influenza B, subtype unknown
- Influenza B/Victoria
- Influenza B/Yamagata
- Influenza, type unknown

[†] Flu deaths less than 18 years of age are reportable to CDPH.

* In a congregate living setting, outbreaks are defined as at least one laboratory-confirmed influenza case in the setting of a cluster (≥2 cases) of influenza-like illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period.

Table 1. Influenza Surveillance Indicators.

Indicator	2021-22 Season			2020-21 Season			Prior 5-Year Average*		
	Week 40	Week 39	Total To Date	Week 40	Total To Date	Season Total	Week 40	Total To Date	Season Total
All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)	28	22	195	1	6	848	15	128	11,781
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI	3%	3%		2%			3%		
Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza	15%	10%		7%			5%		
Number of influenza-related outbreaks [∞]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	48
Number of influenza-related deaths reported [^]	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	123

Influenza season is July 1 – June 30, Weeks 27-26. Previous weeks' case counts or percentages may change due to delayed processing or reporting.

*Includes FYs 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21.

[∞]At least one case of laboratory-confirmed influenza in a setting experiencing two or more cases of influenza like illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period.

Total confirmed influenza outbreaks in prior seasons: 34 in 2016-17, 119 in 2017-18, 25 in 2018-19, 61 in 2019-20, and 0 in 2020-21.

[^]Current FY deaths are shown by week of report; by week of death for prior FYs. Total deaths reported in prior seasons: 87 in 2016-17, 343 in 2017-18, 77 in 2018-19, 108 in 2019-20, and 2 in 2020-21.

CDC 2021-2022 Flu Vaccination Campaign Kickoff

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), along with other public health and medical groups, kicked-off the 2021-2022 flu vaccination season, emphasizing the added importance of vaccination this season during a virtual press conference on October 7, 2021. A recording of the press conference is available [here](#). Keynote speaker CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky presented new estimates of flu vaccination coverage during the 2020-2021 flu season among the public, pregnant people and health care personnel.

CDC flu vaccination coverage for the 2020-2021 season overall was similar to coverage estimates for the prior season in the general population, among pregnant women and overall across health care personnel. Influenza vaccination coverage among adults increased to 50.2% from 48.4% the prior season. This is good news given the ongoing pandemic, which has been highly disruptive to medical care.

However, there were some concerning findings in flu vaccination coverage estimates, including:

- decreased coverage among children,
- continued, and in some cases, worsening racial and ethnic disparities,
- decreased coverage among health care personnel working as assistants/aides,
- only about half of adults with underlying conditions got a flu vaccine last season, and
- continued wide variation in state coverage for both children and adults.

To address equity issues CDC's [Partnering for Vaccine Equity](#) program is working to increase confidence in and access to flu and COVID-19 vaccines through community-based outreach and education. Additionally, to reach other people who are at higher risk of serious flu complications, including people with certain chronic medical conditions, pregnant people and parents of young children, CDC has launched a digital campaign called "[I Get It](#)." The campaign is directed at the general public and focuses on the many reasons to get an annual flu vaccine.

CDC began tracking flu vaccination for the 2021-2022 flu season in children and adults on October 7. That information is available on [Weekly National Flu Vaccination Dashboard](#).

For additional information:

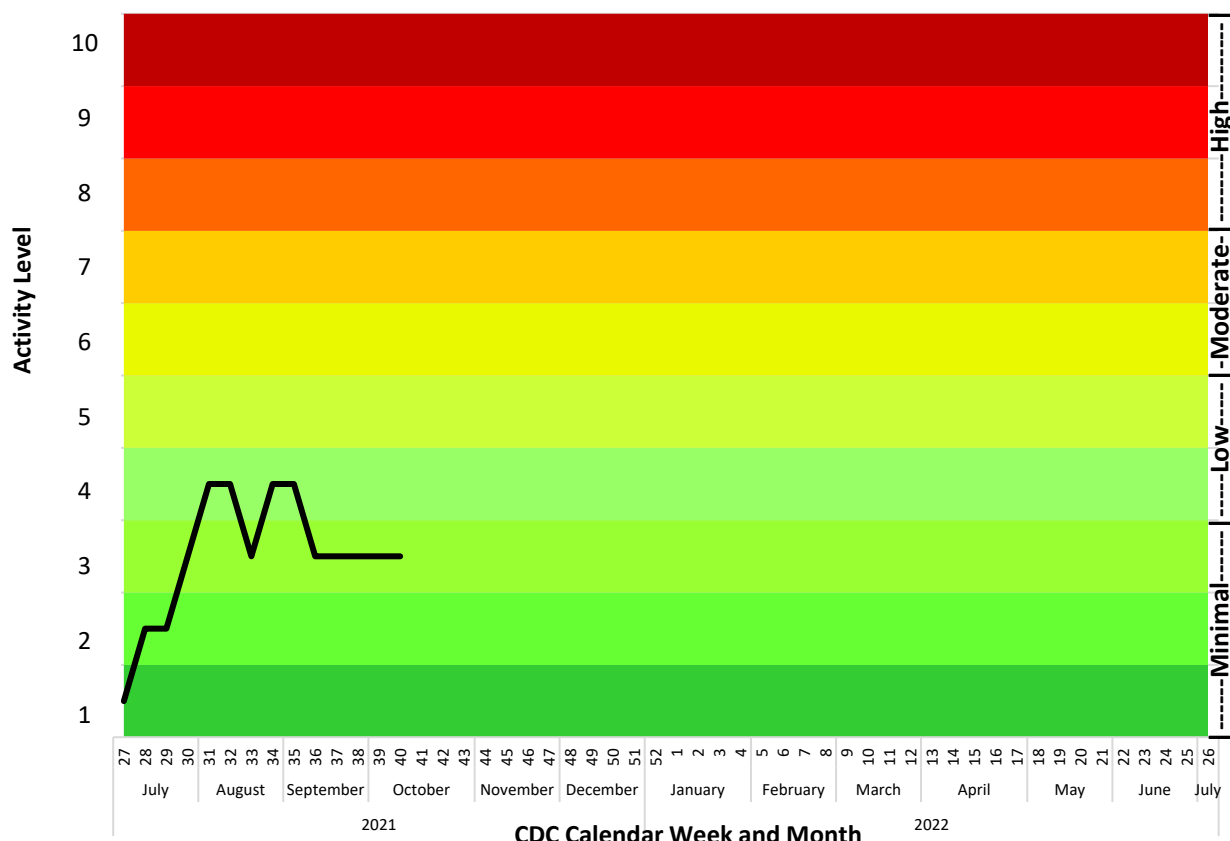
[Flu Vaccination Coverage, United States, 2020-21 Influenza Season](#)

[Flu Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women – United States, 2020-21 Influenza Season](#)

[Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel — United States, 2020-21 Influenza Season](#)

Table 2. Influenza Cases by Week Reported, 2021-2022 Season

Positive Test Type/Subtype	Week 40	Week 39	Total to Date	Percent to Date
Influenza A, subtype unknown	24	9	89	45.6%
Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09	0	0	0	0.0%
Influenza A (H3)	0	0	1	0.5%
Influenza B, subtype unknown	4	13	104	53.3%
Influenza B/Victoria	0	0	0	0.0%
Influenza B/Yamagata	0	0	0	0.0%
Influenza, type unknown	0	0	1	0.5%
Total	28	22	195	100.0%

**Figure 1. Activity Level of Emergency Department Influenza-Like Illness (ILI),
2021-22 Season to Date.****Legend**

Minimal			Low		Moderate		High		
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	LEVEL 7	LEVEL 8	LEVEL 9	LEVEL 10
< mean	≥ mean and <1 standard deviation above mean	≥1 and <2 standard deviations above mean	≥2 and <3 standard deviations above mean	≥3 and <4 standard deviations above mean	≥4 and <5 standard deviations above mean	≥5 and <6 standard deviations above mean	≥6 and <7 standard deviations above mean	≥7 and <8 standard deviations above mean	≥8 standard deviations above mean

Influenza Activity Indicator:

The activity level compares the current week's ED ILI% (emergency department influenza-like illness, percent of all visits) to the mean and number of standard deviations above of the mean of the ED ILI% in non-influenza season weeks (CDC disease weeks 27-39) from the current and prior four seasons.

There are 10 activity levels, classified as: Minimal (levels 1-3), Low (levels 4-5), Moderate (levels 6-7), and High (levels 8-10). An activity level of 1 corresponds to when the ED ILI% is below the mean; level 2 corresponds to when the ED ILI% is less than 1 standard deviation above the mean; level 3 corresponds to when the ED ILI% is more than 1 but less than 2 standard deviations above the mean, and so on, with an activity level of 10 corresponding to when the ED ILI% is at 8 or more standard deviations above the mean.

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Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and CDC Episode Week*, 2021-22 Season to Date (N=201).

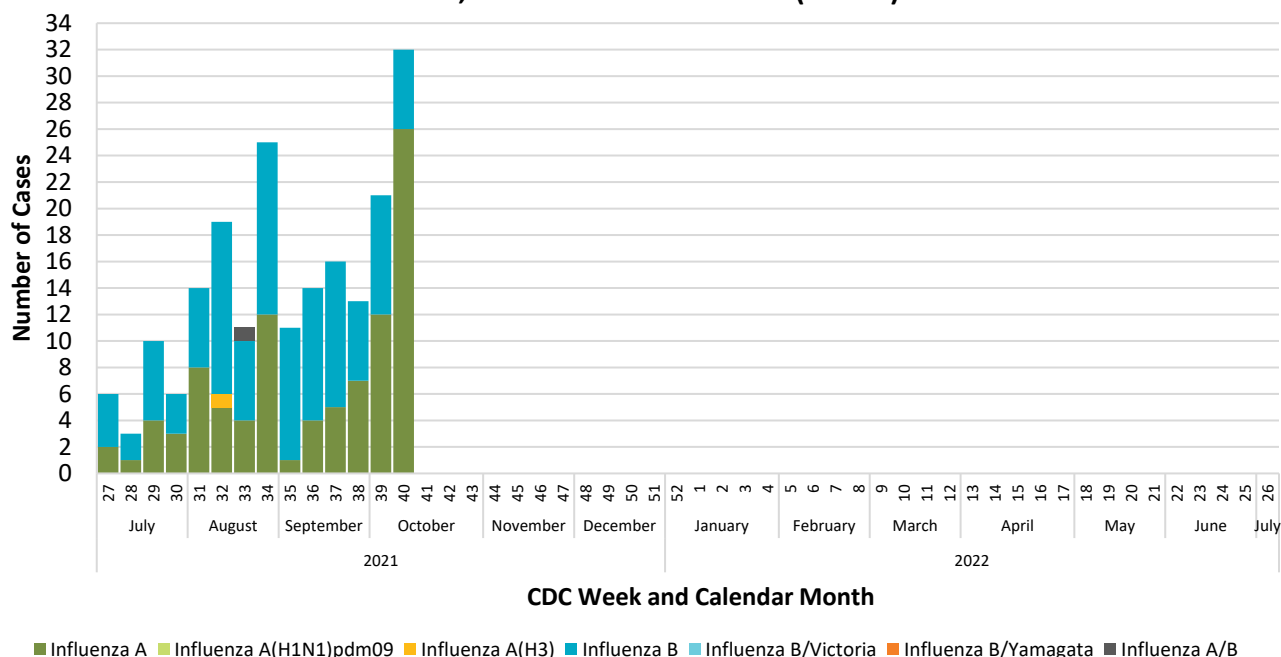
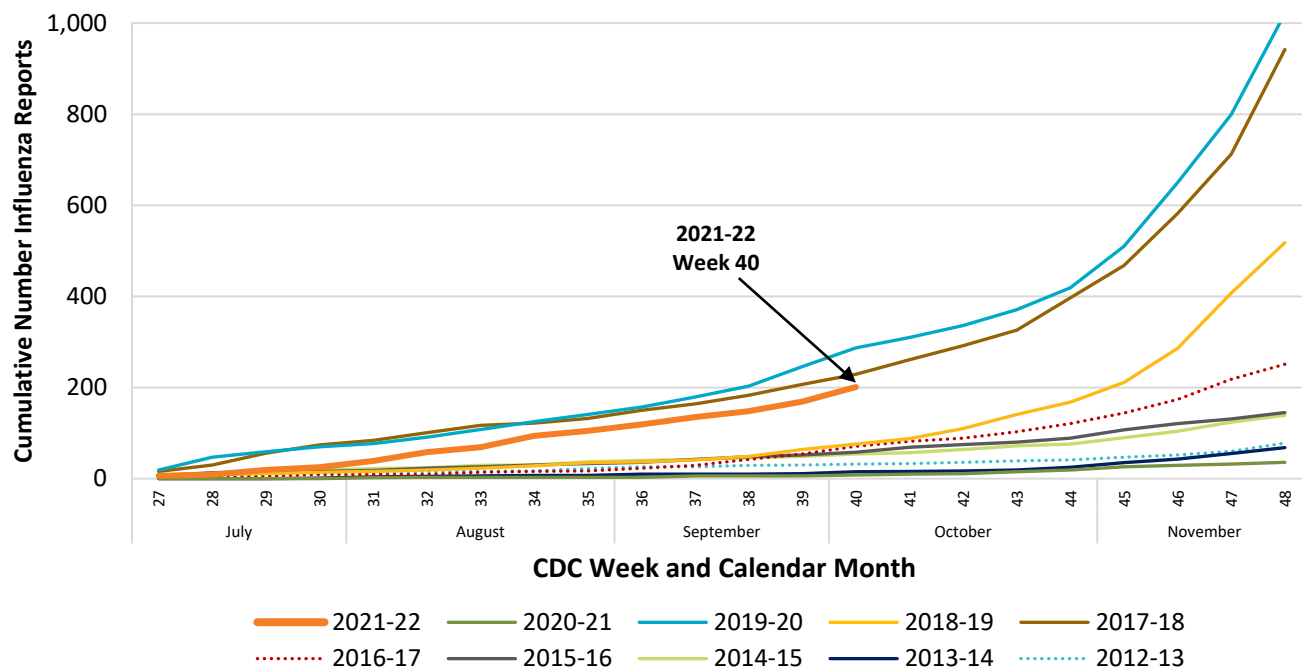


Figure 3. Cumulative Influenza Cases by CDC Episode Week* and Season.



*If case did not have symptoms or illness onset date is unavailable, the earliest of specimen collection date, date of death, or date reported is used instead.

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Figure 4. Proportion of Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season.

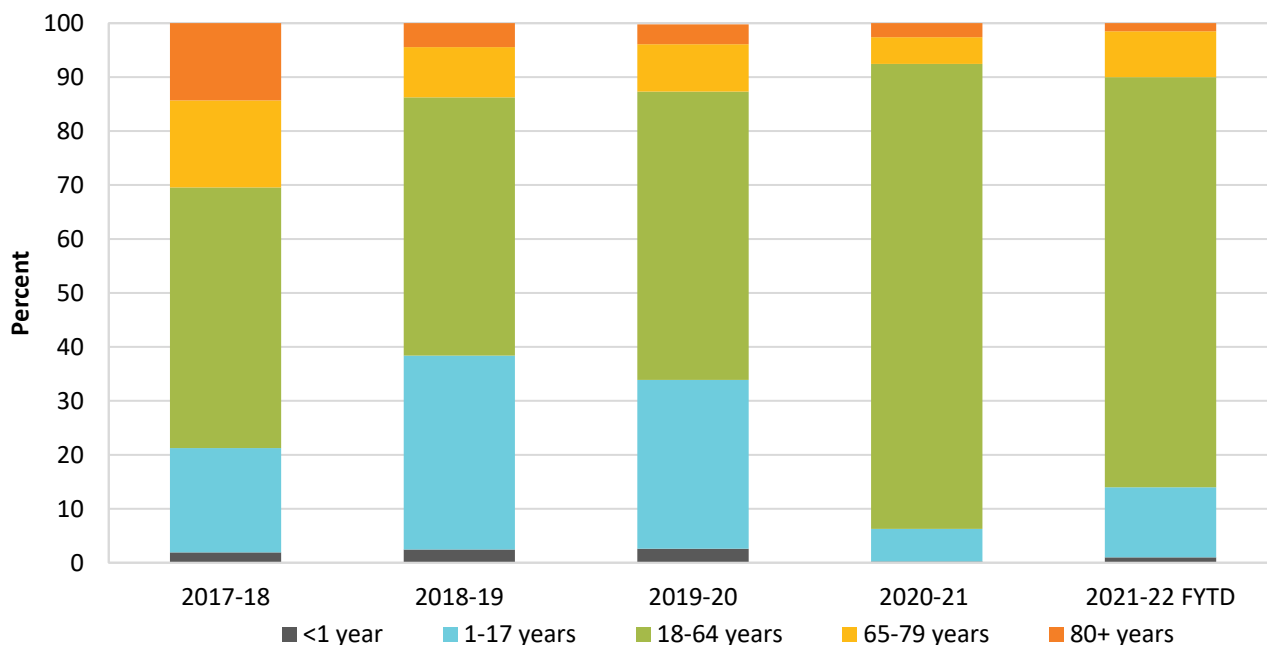
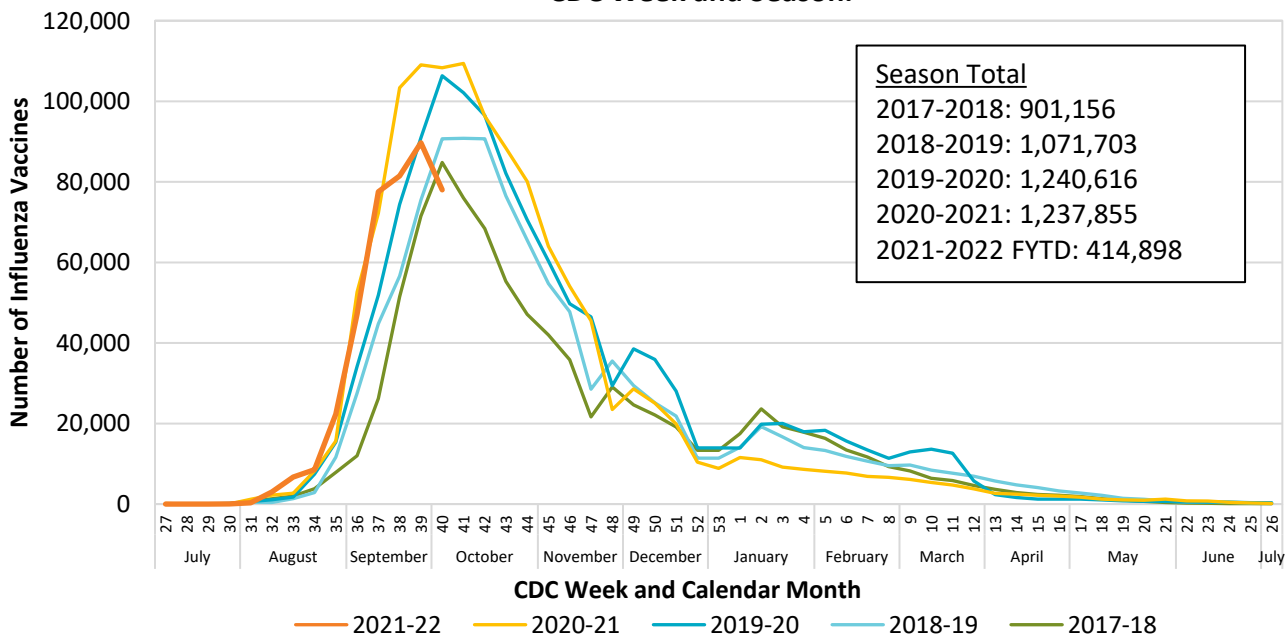


Figure 5. Number of Influenza Vaccinations Administered* by CDC Week and Season.

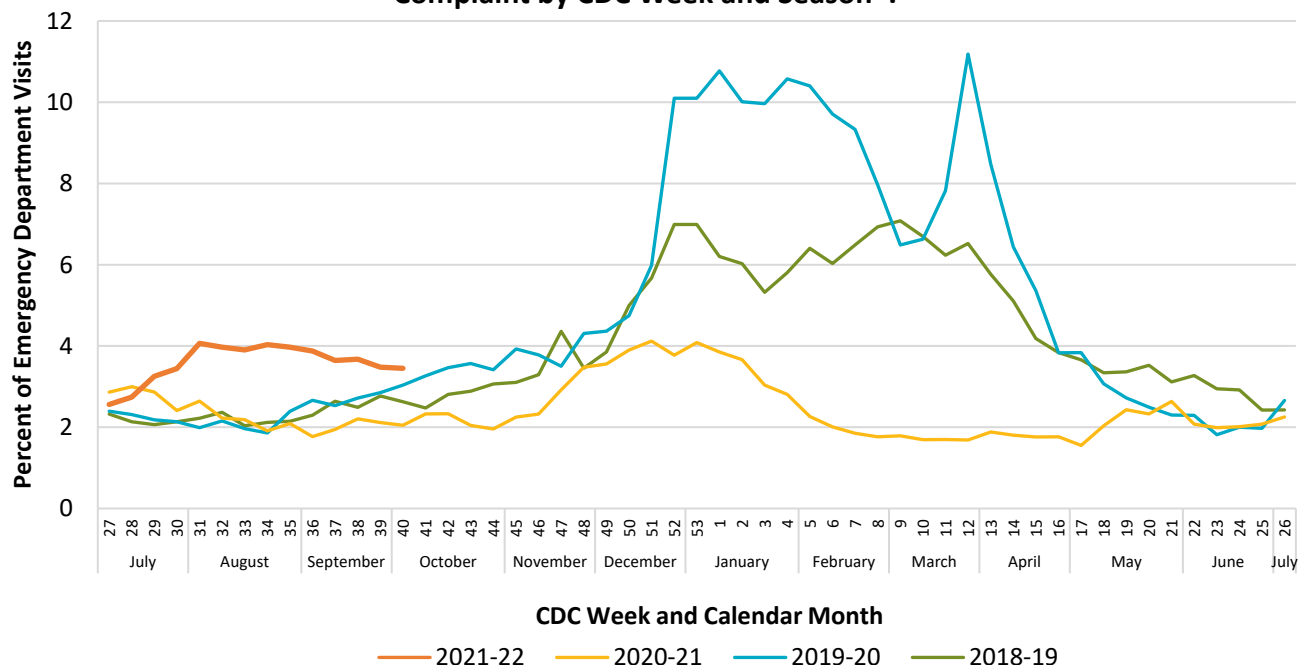


*Influenza vaccinations administered and entered into the San Diego Immunization Registry ([SDIR](https://sdir.org)). Week 52 data are repeated for week 53 for seasons that do not include week 53.

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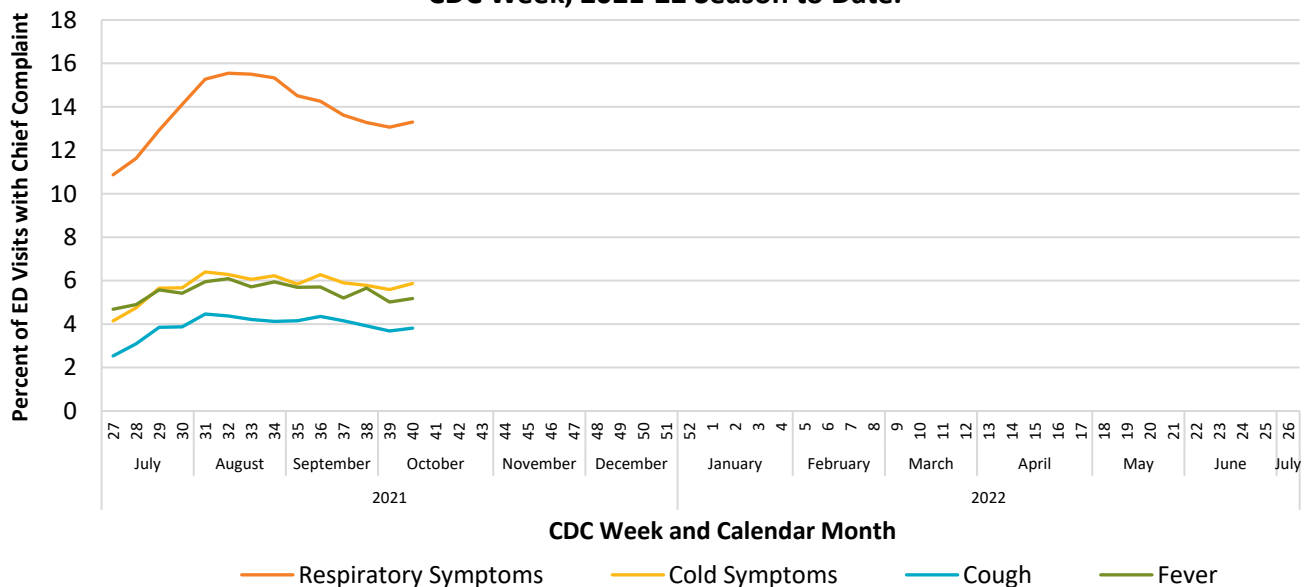
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Figure 6. Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI Chief Complaint by CDC Week and Season*.



* Week 52 data are repeated for week 53 for seasons that do not include week 53.

Figure 7. Percent of Emergency Department Visit Chief Complaints for Cough, Cold, Fever, or Respiratory Symptoms* by CDC Week, 2021-22 Season to Date.



* Respiratory category includes cough, cold symptoms, influenza-like illness, and other respiratory symptoms.

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Figure 8. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by CDC Week and Season Compared to 5-Year Baseline and Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method).

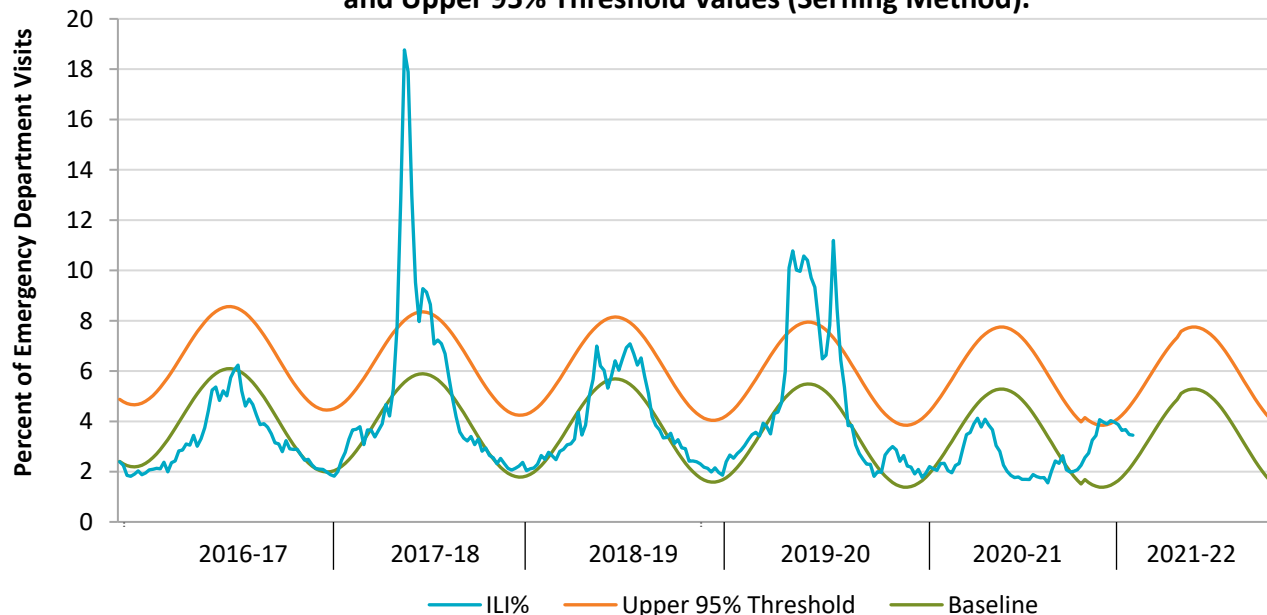
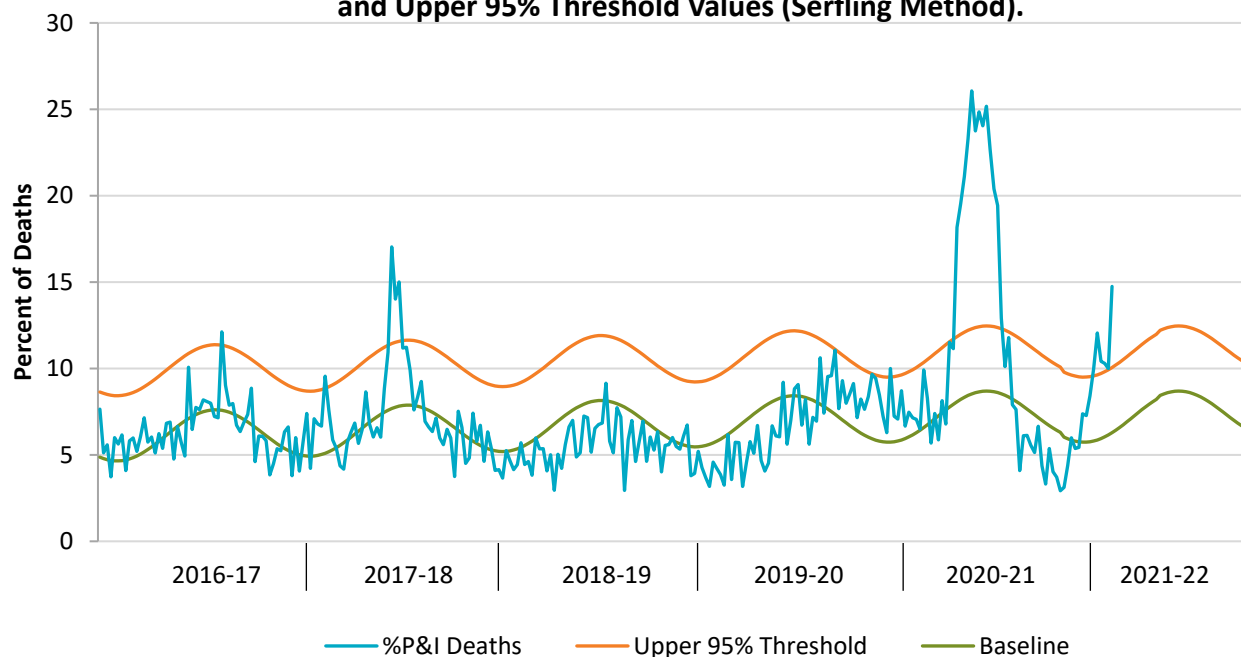


Figure 9. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by CDC Week and Season Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline and Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method).



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Figure 10. Influenza Deaths by Type and Season.

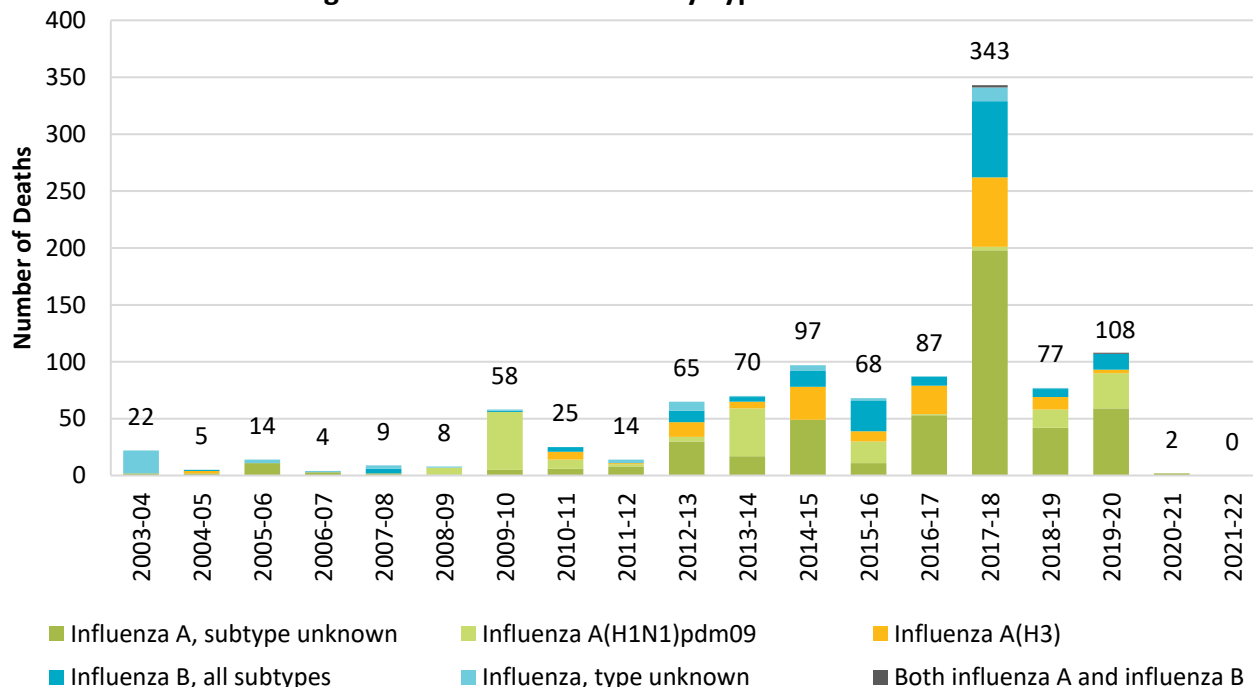
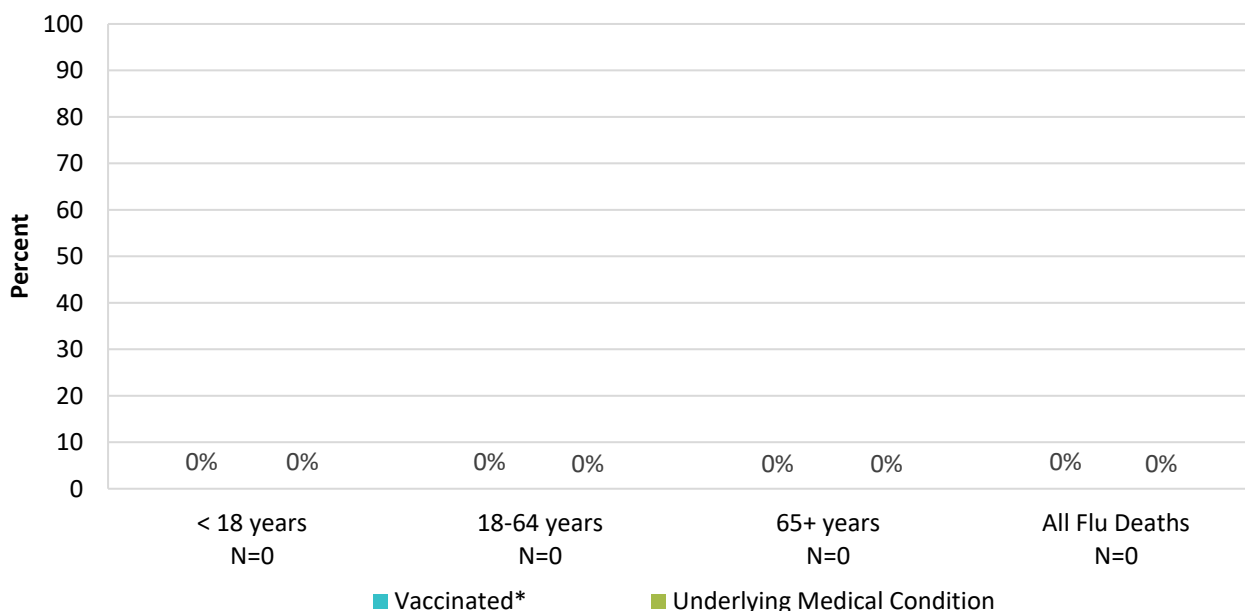


Figure 11. Percent of Influenza Deaths by Age Group, Vaccination Status, and Underlying Medical Condition, 2021-22 Season.



*known to be vaccinated

Influenza Reporting in San Diego County

Individual influenza cases are reportable to the County of San Diego Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch. Please report laboratory-positive influenza results to the County Epidemiology Unit by **FAX (858) 715-6458** using a [Confidential Morbidity Report Form](#), or an [Influenza Case Report Form](#), and/or a copy of the laboratory results. Also, please indicate if the patient died and/or is a resident of a congregate living facility (if known).

Influenza specimens may be sent to [Public Health Laboratory](#) (PHL) for confirmation and subtyping. Please contact PHL at **(619) 692-8500 before submitting** or for questions and use the current PHL [Test Requisition Form](#). Contact the Epidemiology Unit by telephone **(619) 692-8499** or email (EpiDiv.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov) with questions about influenza data. Influenza outbreaks should be reported by telephone to **(619) 692-8499**.

Resource Links

- County of San Diego Epidemiology Unit www.sdepi.org
- County of San Diego [2020-21 Influenza Season Summary](#)
- *Influenza Watch* [Slide Deck](#) – A slide version of this report for presentations
- County of San Diego Immunization Unit (SDIZ) www.sdiz.org
- San Diego [Immunization Registry](#) (SDIR)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Influenza Update](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Influenza Surveillance](#)

Influenza Watch Data Sources

The following sources of data are used to produce this report:

- **Influenza case reports:** Medical providers and laboratories report individual cases of confirmed influenza via fax or electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) to Public Health Services Epidemiology Unit (Epidemiology).
- **Influenza deaths:** Hospital infection control professionals report influenza-related deaths. Pediatric flu deaths (under 18 years of age) are legally reportable in California; however, San Diego County requests that all influenza-related deaths be reported for surveillance purposes. Influenza-related deaths are also identified through death certificate registration. The County Office of Vital Records notifies Epidemiology when a new death is registered with influenza listed as a cause of death or contributing condition. In addition, influenza case reports are compared to death data for San Diego County, and matches are evaluated to determine if influenza infection was related to the cause of death.
- **Percent pneumonia and influenza deaths:** The percentage of all deaths registered that had either pneumonia and/or influenza listed as a cause of death is obtained directly from the Vital Records data system on a weekly basis.
- **Influenza-like illness (ILI):** Electronic emergency department (ED) visit data are submitted to Epidemiology daily. The percent of ED visits for ILI or flu (based on chief complaints or diagnosis) is calculated for each week. ILI is defined as fever and cough and/or sore throat.
- **Influenza outbreaks:** In a congregate living setting, outbreaks are defined as at least one laboratory-confirmed influenza in the setting of a cluster (≥ 2 cases) of influenza-like illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period. Influenza outbreaks are reportable in California. Epidemiology identifies outbreaks when facilities call to report. Other potential outbreaks are identified when multiple cases share an address or have a residential address that matches a skilled nursing or long-term care facility.
- **Number of vaccines:** The San Diego Immunization Registry (SDIR) provides weekly updates on the number of flu vaccinations given based on the number of flu vaccinations registered by participating providers.

For information on COVID-19 in San Diego County, please see the [COVID-19 Watch](#) weekly surveillance report. Additional COVID-19 data and a link to subscribe to the COVID-19 Watch are available on the San Diego County COVID-19 data [website](#).